

16th July 2018**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK****TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE UPDATE AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTS IN THE TROUBLED FAMILIES TEAM****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire and seek approval to bring a further report in six months.
2. To seek approval to establish an additional 1 FTE Unit Lead (Band B) post within the Troubled Families Project Team to March 2020.

Information

3. The Family Service was developed in 2015 to bring together related elements of early help with services which support the delivery of statutory children's social care functions. Over a number of years significant savings have been made from this range of services with an increasing reliance on the grant and payment by results income from the government's Troubled Families Programme to support these services. The Troubled Families income totals approximately £2.1m per annum and is paid by central government having been sourced from government departments who are felt to be beneficiaries of the programme outcomes. Whilst there are no official government spending plans past March 2020, the consistent narrative is that the Troubled Families programme will end at that point.
4. In December 2017 the Children & Young People's Committee received a paper detailing that Nottinghamshire had put in a bid for "Earned Autonomy" which would have replaced the payment by results funding model. Unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful, with very few authorities being awarded earned autonomy and no further plans to move any authorities to this model in the future. The mechanism for securing funding from the programme continues to be a system of Payment by Results, based on outcomes per family. Payment is divided into two parts, with an attachment fee of £1,000 being paid for every eligible family that services engage with, and a further £800 where a claim for successful outcomes can be made.
5. Phase Two of the Extended Troubled Families programme runs from April 2015 to March 2020. Nottinghamshire has been set a target of engaging 5,170 families through the programme by March 2020, and has met incremental attachment milestones set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) with 4,237 families attached to date which has drawn down £4.2m in attachment fees.

6. Nottinghamshire has made 959 successful claims for successfully “turning around” attached families, which is 19% of the end of programme target. Where there has not been a claim in many cases it does not indicate a failure to make any progress but likely means that the sustainability of progress made is being monitored before a claim can be made – of the 4237 attached families, there are 2,390 actively being worked with or whom are closed and where progress is being monitored. It should also be noted that with the expansion of the eligibility criteria in 2015, the bar for evidencing success was also raised and where previously an authority could make a claim based on progress in one area, it now has to be shown across all identified triggers. In some cases a family can have made progress on the programme without being eligible for a full claim – this applies to around 160 families who have been supported through the programme since 2015.
7. Table 1 compares Nottinghamshire to the East Midlands authorities, from figures reported in the recently published Troubled Families Annual Report in March 2018.
8. When making performance comparisons, it is important to note that the definition of a “Troubled Family” is very broad and local authorities will have made different decisions about where to target the resources drawn down from the programme. In Nottinghamshire the majority of families attached are at tier three or four of the Pathway to Provision, meaning they have significant entrenched difficulties at the point at which they start to receive support through the programme. The “distance travelled” for a Nottinghamshire family where a claim is made therefore represents a significant achievement. By comparison, some authorities will target a different cohort of families where fewer triggers are met and where the change needed before a claim can be made is small.
9. A number of local authorities have recently received challenge from the MHCLG about the rate of successful claims made by their programme. Nottinghamshire has been amongst these, as have half of the East Midland authorities. It is believed that the threshold for receiving such challenge is authorities with a lower than 25% turnaround rate.

Table 1: East Midlands Comparison

Local authority	Maximum funded families up to 2020	Number of families achieved significant and sustained progress as at 9 th March 2018	Number of families achieved continuous employment as at 9 th March 2018	Total claims for results as at 9 th March 2018	Percentage of target claims made
Leicestershire	2,770	678	507	1,185	43%
Nottingham	3,840	915	359	1,274	33%
Rutland	100	24	0	24	24%
Derbyshire	4,510	731	279	1,010	22%
Lincolnshire	4,760	557	415	972	20%
Nottinghamshire	5,170	782	83	865	17%
Leicester	3,940	403	121	524	13%

Derby	2,230	227	58	285	13%
Northamptonshire	4,420	436	7	443	10%

* The figures in the table are as at 9th March 2018, the figures reported above are the position as of June 2018.

10. In response to the challenge, Nottinghamshire has written a Recovery Plan which has been approved by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and details how the Authority intends to increase its claim rate over the final two years of the programme. The plan includes action to improve the continuous employment claim rate through closer working with Department for Work and Pensions partners, and work to identify and claim for eligible families being worked with by services who have not traditionally attached a high number of families to the programme.
11. In April 2017 a 0.5 full time equivalent (FTE) Unit Lead was seconded to the Troubled Families Project Team. The post was required to capitalise on income drawn down in Payment by Results claims for successful work undertaken by teams outside of the Family Service. The post has been effective in increasing the claim rate for work with families open to children's centres, family nurse partnership, social care and youth justice by over 60%. In order to further maximise the number of successful claims made, the establishment of 1 FTE Unit Lead in the Troubled Families until the end of the programme (March 2020) is proposed.

Other Options Considered

12. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The establishment of additional capacity in the Troubled Families Team will realise the full potential of the claims between now and the end of the programme.
14. To keep Members informed of the current performance of the programme and the planned improvements, as detailed in the recovery plan for MHCLG, which will have been implemented with measureable impact over the next six months.
15. To inform Members of the risk of a reduction or deletion of grant funding for early help services post 2020.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

17. The temporary establishment of 1 FTE Unit Lead post, at Band B plus on-costs, will have a financial implication of £45,100 per annum and will be met from the Family Service budget.
18. There are no other immediate financial implications of this report, however the risk of end of grant funding in 2020 is recognised and the service is considering options for change. At present the scope to introduce any changes is limited by the need to have a sufficient workforce to generate the “attachment fees” (paid for each family successfully engaged according to the provided criteria) and “payment by results” to gain Troubled Families income.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the temporary establishment of 1 FTE Unit Lead (Band B) post in the Troubled Families Project Team to March 2020.
- 2) agrees to receive a follow up report in the next six months and that this be included in the work programme.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 18/06/18)

19. The Children and Young People’s Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 21/06/18)

20. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report.

HR Comments (EM 12/6/18)

21. The post will be recruited to in line with Nottinghamshire County Council’s employment procedures. The role has been evaluated through the Job Evaluation Scheme and is a Band B post.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nottinghamshire County Council Family Outcomes Plan

Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire – six month update: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 December 2017

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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